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RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 1452
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 3095
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 2930
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 0872
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ MAR LIMA 4471
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 3211
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 1534
RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 000428

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [TBIO](#) [PREL](#) [SOCI](#) [CI](#)
SUBJECT: CHILE: BACHELET ANNOUNCES NEW CABINET
UNDERSECRETARIES

REF: A. SANTIAGO 00203
[1](#)B. SANTIAGO 00218

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Emi L. Yamauchi
for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (C) On March 1, President-elect Michele Bachelet announced the names of the undersecretaries in her new cabinet -- essentially the second tier of the executive branch of the government. Her choices follow the same pattern set by the appointment of cabinet members, combining new faces with experienced public servants. Politically, the list also broadly reflects the balance of Concertacion coalition political parties and gender parity. Unlike the cabinet-level appointments, the undersecretary appointments seem to respond more to the desires of the established political parties.

[1](#)2. (C) The Christian Democratic (DC) Party retained the highest number of slots, 12 of the newly appointed undersecretaries, followed by the Party for Democracy (PPD) with 6 appointments and the Socialist Party (PS) also with 6 appointments. The Radical Social Democratic Party (PRSD) was able to obtain 4 slots, including the appointment of Carlos Maldonado as Undersecretary General of the Government, an important position in the Presidency. There were also 3 independents appointed as undersecretaries. These figures reflect the political forces inside Concertacion and remain basically the same as under the outgoing Lagos Administration.

[1](#)3. (U) The President-elect also stated her intention to name three more undersecretaries as part of the institutional changes outlined in her Government Plan for 2006-2010. The names of the 13 "intendentes" or regional authorities, 51 governors, about 70 ambassadors, heads of governmental agencies, and directors of state-owned companies are expected on March 2.

[1](#)4. (U) The following is a list of the under-secretary

appointments:

Ministry of Interior

Undersecretary of Interior: Felipe Harboe (PPD)

Undersecretary of Regional Development: Claudia Serrano (PS)

Ministry of Foreign Relations

Undersecretary of Foreign Relations: Alberto Van Klaveren
(independent but pro PPD)

Ministry of National Defense

Undersecretary of War: Gonzalo Garcia (DC)

Undersecretary of Navy: Carolina Echeverría (PPD)

Undersecretary of Aviation: Raul Vergara Meneses (PS)

Undersecretary of Carabineros: Marcelo Ortiz (DC)

Undersecretary of Police (PICH): Ricardo Navarrete (PRSD)

Ministry Secretariat General of the Presidency

Undersecretary General of the Presidency: Edgardo Riveros (DC)

Ministry Secretariat General of Government

Undersecretary General of Government: Carlos Maldonado (PRSD)

Undersecretary of Sports: Catalina Depassier (DC)

Ministry of Justice

Undersecretary of Justice: Veronica Barahona (DC)

Ministry of Finance

Undersecretary of Finance: María Olivia Recart (DC)

Ministry of Economy and Energy

Undersecretary of Economy: Ana Maria Correa (DC)

Undersecretary of Fishing: Carlos Hernandez (PS)

Executive Secretary of the National Energy Commission: Pablo
Serra Banfi (independent)

Ministry of Agriculture

Undersecretary of Agriculture: Cecilia Leiva (PPD)

Ministry of Mining

Undersecretary of Mining: Marisol Aravena Puelma (PRSD)

Ministry of Planning and Cooperation

Undersecretary of Planning and Cooperation: Gonzalo Arenas
Valverde (DC)

Ministry of Education

Undersecretary of Education: Pilar Romaguera (independent but
pro PS)

Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare

Undersecretary of Labor: Zarko Luksic (DC)

Undersecretary of Social Welfare: Lisette Garcia (DC)

Ministry of Public Health

Undersecretary of Public Health: Lía Amarales (PPD)

Undersecretary Health Assistance Networks: Ricardo Fabrega
(DC)

Women National Service

Deputy Director of Women National Service: Carmen Andrade (PS)

National Council for the Culture and Arts

Undersecretary of Culture: Maria Eliana Arntz (PS)

Ministry of Public Works, Transportation and
Telecommunications

Undersecretary of Public Works: Juan Eduardo Saldivia (DC)

Undersecretary of Transportation: Danilo Nunez (PS)

Undersecretary of Telecommunications: Pablo Bello (PPD)

Ministry of Housing and Urbanism

Undersecretary of Housing: Paulina Saball (PPD)

Ministry of National State Property

Undersecretary of National State Properties: Lorraine De
Laire Peirano (PRSD)

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